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Date: July 24, 2001

By: Kay L. Gaviglio
Kay L. Gaviglio

PATENT
Docket No. GC329-US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of)
Johannes C. van der Laan, et al.)
Serial No.: 07/565,673)
Filed: August 10, 1990)
For: Efficient Production of Mutant Proteases)

Group Art Unit: 1652
Examiner: Fronda, C.

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AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated March 29, 2001 for the above-identified application, please consider the following amendments and remarks. This response is considered timely. A Petition for a one-month extension of time until July 29, 2001 and requisite fee authorization is submitted concurrently with this amendment.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claims 41, 45, 47, 48, and 50 with the following clean copy of said amended claims. A marked-up version of said claims is appended hereto.

41. (Once amended) A method for the production of a mutant high alkaline protease, said method comprising the steps of:

a) obtaining a non-reverting mutant alkalophilic Bacillus host incapable of producing a wild-type high alkaline protease, wherein said mutant alkalophilic Bacillus host comprises a chromosomal deletion of the gene encoding the wild-type alkaline